

AIR NEWS

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Small Business Gets Hazardous Waste Help

By Allan Moore

Small businesses such as dry cleaners, auto service shops and publishing companies that may generate hazardous waste can learn how to handle those wastes through the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste's Small Quantity Generator Compliance Evaluation Program.

Compliance workers visit the businesses and offer information on training workers in waste disposal and handling, on how to label containers and talk about

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the importance of labeling hazardous wastes.

If rule violations are found the companies are asked to submit a written plan detailing how they will comply. Those plans typically contain information on things like weekly inspections to assure drums are labeled, closed and in good condition. The businesses also explain how training was conducted and how they're following safe handling procedures for hazardous wastes.

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The Small Business Assistance Challenge

By Stephanie Bernkopf

"Just tell me what I need to do to comply, and then leave me alone."

I've heard those sentiments more than once from small-business owners. And I understand the feeling. Environmental regulations are often complex and more than one government agency usually is involved.

The whole setup seems destined to frustrate small businesses. We are trying to change though. I know what you're thinking: Yeah, right. I've got some great ocean front property in Arizona too! It is a challenge, but one we have to face. More and more, environmental regulations have a direct impact on more small businesses.

Utah Department of Environmental Quality decided last year, under the direction of Executive Director Dianne R. Nielson and executive management, that improving small businesses assistance was a primary goal.

It doesn't mean we'll visit you more often unless you want us to. It does mean we're going to improve the way we do business.

The following list includes ideas we are

incorporating into our daily business:

- All DEQ employees need a certain level of understanding about the programs administered by the agency.

This may seem like a given, but DEQ administers many programs for the federal Environmental Protection Agency and



other federal entities. Most employees have a good understanding of what happens in their immediate office but may not know what happens in others.

The goal here, is to increase our efficiency at answering your questions or providing assistance. You won't always know who you need to talk to. We may not either, but we will get the answer quickly for you. Making sure we can direct your call if we don't know the answer is important. We will accomplish this by providing some basic customer-service training to employees and by developing a department "yellow pages" that lists and cross-references programs and contacts.

- Where possible, coordinate regulations among programs and translate them into plain English.

We have a pilot project for the wood-finishing industry. We are trying to include all department regulations that affect this industry in an easily understandable

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Risk Management Plan Program

By Patrick J. Sheehan

Did you know many Utah businesses need to prepare and submit Risk Management Plans by June 21, 1999?

Utah businesses, including propane dealers, produce and food distributors, agricultural retailers and municipal water/wastewater plants, must complete the plans due to federal regulations that take effect later in June.

Risk Management Plans are part of new federal regulations designed to help prevent accidental release of regulated substances and to reduce the severity and impact of any releases that do occur.

The regulations are commonly known as the RMP Program. They were published by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1996 with compliance set for this June.

Who is regulated?

The RMP Program requires facilities of all sizes that use or store certain substances to develop a risk management plan, a regular program of activities designed to prevent an accidental release from occurring and to reduce the impacts of releases that do occur.

Many requirements, such as training employees and inspecting and maintaining your equipment, are essential to any successful business. Others, such as evaluating dangers associated with your operations and determining how to make them safer, are things you already think about on a regular basis.

The program applies to various processes within a facility. There may be different requirements associated with any particular process, depending on what it is. Processes that have no potential impact on the public in the case of an accidental release will have minimal

requirements. For other processes, companies will implement a risk management plan that includes more detailed requirements for hazard assessment, prevention and emergency response.

Does this apply to me?

The program applies to all Utah businesses with processes that contain more than a threshold quantity of one or more of 140 regulated substances. These substances are categorized generally as either toxic or flammable. The threshold quantity for toxic substances varies from 500 to 20,000 pounds depending on the compound. Flammable substances generally have a 10,000 pound threshold.

A facility's owner or operator needs to determine if a particular process is affected by the RMP Program. For example, the program would apply to a wastewater treatment facility which treats its effluent with chlorine and stores 3,000 pounds of chlorine at any one time. However, the facility may avoid the requirements by always storing less than 2,500 pounds of chlorine at any one time.

Although there are many regulated substances and the threshold quantity differs with each substance, exemptions also may apply to your facility. Owners and operators need to look at individual processes to determine if the regulations apply.

Who can help?

Help is available for Utah businesses by contacting EPA on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline/index.htm> or calling the Utah Division of Air Quality's Small Business Assistance Program at 1 (800) 270-4440.

What do you need to do?

If the RMP Program applies to your facility, contact the Emergency Planning and RMP Hotline at 1 (800) 424-9346 to

determine what requirements apply to your operations.

The rule requires covered facilities to develop and implement safe practices to identify and manage hazards. You must analyze worst-case releases, document a five-year history of serious accidents, coordinate with local responders, develop a risk management program and prepare and submit a risk management plan.

Resources

You are encouraged to contact the EPA Emergency Planning and RMP Hotline by telephone or through the Internet address (see above). The EPA has another web site full of information ranging from frequently asked questions (FAQs) to examples of Risk Management Plans for various industries such as propane dealers, ammonia refrigeration facilities, etc. The Internet address is <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/>.

Also, Utah Division of Air Quality's Small Business Assistance Program can help you determine if your process is covered by the regulations. However, it is the responsibility of the owner or operator to determine if a regulation applies to a particular facility, so please get started today if you haven't already.

How to Submit?

EPA has developed free computer software for you to submit the RMP called RMP SUBMIT which is now available.

What Will be Done With the Information?

After you submit your RMP in electronic form, EPA will check to make sure it is complete. If it is not, you will be notified that more information is needed. Assuming the information is complete, it will be maintained in a database called RMP MAINTAIN. This is the data bank for all information on all companies in the United States.

Utah's data will be sent to EPA's Region VIII offices in Denver, Colorado. Region VIII will then review the information using software called RMP REVIEW. Information will then be available to the public unless it is deemed as confidential business information or might create a national security risk. The public will be able to access RMP data via the Internet using software called RMP INFO.

Threshold Quantities of Regulated Substances

Chlorine	(Toxic)	2,500 lbs or 200 gallons
Anhydrous Ammonia	(Toxic)	10,000 lbs or 1,560 gallons
Ammonia (20% & Greater)	(Toxic)	20,000 lbs or 2,500 gallons
Propane	(Flammable)	10,000 lbs or 2,260 gallons
Acetylene	(Flammable)	10,000 lbs or 1,900 gallons

National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Consumer Products Videoconference Materials Available

Last October the University of Tennessee and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency presented a satellite telecast entitled "*Clean Air Compliance for Consumer Products.*" This was a two-hour interactive training for a new rule which limits volatile organic compounds content of consumer products. The rule is applicable to the makers, distributors and importers of consumer products such as hair spray, floor waxes and 22 other products categories. The course included the following topics: Do I have to comply? What if I cannot meet the deadline? and Questions and answer sessions.

Interested in obtaining a video tape or course notebook? Contact Ron Reece with the Small Business Assistance Program (801) 536-4000 or 1-(800) 270-4440, if outside the Salt Lake City area.

Small Business

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compliance workbook. If it works well with this industry, we plan on doing it for others.

- Provide better information on Internet.

We are working on our business assistance page with the goal of providing information businesses need and linking our site to other assistance providers.

- As much as possible, coordinate with other agencies to avoid duplication.

It won't always be possible, but if we can avoid duplication of regulatory requirements, say with the County and us, we'll try. Some of our programs are bet-

ter at this than others. An example is our pre-design meetings which we have extended to include other agencies. Pollution prevention always incorporates a number of programs and this may be a good way to decrease some of your regulatory burden. If you have ideas you would like us to try, please let me know.

- Improve DEQ staff's understanding of the business world.

Sometimes we get caught up in the rigors of our day-to-day jobs. But if we understand the viewpoint of a small business, we can do our jobs better. We are working with Utah Department of Community and Economic Development to allow our staff to voluntarily attend some of the training provided by their business development staff. Everything should be

in place by September.

I'd like to hear whether you think these changes are working. Call me at 1 (801) 536-4479 or E-mail sbernkop@deq.state.ut.us. We also have a toll free number if you are outside the Salt Lake area: 1 (800) 458-0145. If you would rather contact another small business owner, you have representatives on our Compliance Assistance Panel. They are listed on our web site at <http://www.deq.state.ut.us>. If you do not have Internet access, call me and I will put you in contact with the panelists.

Protecting the environment takes everybody. Thanks for your help.

Hazardous Waste Help

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cilities that generate small quantities of hazardous waste.

It is designed to address the needs of small businesses which are defined as facilities generating less than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste monthly. Approximately 1,500 Utah businesses have indicated they generate such wastes.

The program's centerpiece is a streamlined compliance evaluation process that utilizes a comprehensive evaluation form to be used by both Division and facility personnel in evaluating potential compliance issues.

The form outlines requirements that must be met by small quantity generators in order to comply with hazardous waste management rules. A checklist is left at each company detailing areas that may

have compliance problems. If potential compliance problems are identified during the evaluation, the facility is required to correct them within a specified time period and notify the Division of actions taken.

This evaluation program is a compliance assistance program geared for small business in an attempt to foster awareness of hazardous waste management rules at facilities that generally do not have specific personnel to oversee facility waste management practices.

Follow-up visits are conducted for a select percentage of facilities to measure compliance with the hazardous waste rules and program success. This program does not replace the traditional enforcement process, but compliments it, in helping to educate and provide awareness to facility personnel concerning the liability associated with generating and managing hazardous waste.

For more information on the Small Quantity Generator Evaluation Program, call the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste at 1 (801) 538-6170.

Free On-Site Environmental Audits

Do you need an air permit?

If you have a permit, do you understand your permit conditions?

Call the Small Business Assistance Program, (801) 536-4083 or outside Salt Lake (800) 270-4440.



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Utah Small Business Assistance Program
150 N. 1950 West
P.O. Box 144820
Salt Lake City, Ut 84114-4820

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Calendar of Events

Compliance Deadlines Arrive for Air Quality Standards

Risk Management Plan

Compliance Date (Company mails in plan): **June 21, 1999.**

See article in this issue of the *Air News* for details.

For more information, contact Ron Reece at (801) 536-4091.

National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Automobile Refinish Coatings

Compliance Date (Companies manufacturing paints): **January 11, 1999.**

Paint manufacturers need to start manufacturing low volatile organic compound products.

For more information, contact Ron Reece at (801) 536-4091.

Air-conditioning/Appliance (CFC) Technician Certification Program:

First Tuesday of the Month; 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Utah Power & Light Service Center, 1569 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City.

For more information, contact Steve Arbuckle at (801) 486-4401.

National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Architectural Coatings

Date and Time to be Announced.

The broadcast will provide practical information for compliance with the new emission limits for volatile organic compounds in architectural coatings. Compliance date is September 13, 1999. For more information, contact Ron Reece at (801) 536-4091.

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Comments or suggestions for future articles should be sent to:

*Air News Editor
Utah Division of Air Quality
P.O. Box 144820
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4820*